

HANDLE VIA TALENT

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Chief, SI/SP/CS

9 July 1957

Chief, IS/SS/CS/CS

Information Section Activities Not Envisaged in the Original HTA
Mission Planning

A. SUPPORT TO THE MILITARY SERVICES.

In the initial operational stages of HTA, Information Section support to the Military Services was not planned or requested. Two (2) liaison officers from each of the services (Army, Navy, Air) were to be stationed within the HTA Center. At present the Army element has increased its staff to 18. Their present T/O for the HTA Project is sixty (60). Navy has maintained an average of five (5) operational people within the HTA Center.

The Information Section was called upon to provide the type of assistance which was being given to the D/GP/RK elements.

The support rendered these elements is reflected by the following statistics:

TOTAL NO. OF MILITARY SERVICE REQUESTS*	TOTAL NO. OF DOCUMENTS SERIALIZED, BORROWED AND FURNISHED IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUESTS
985	11,185

*Statistics from 9 July 1956 thru June 1957

B. THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A REFERENCE LIBRARY

Although a reference library was mentioned in the initial HTA paper regarding Missions and Functions, it was understood during the early stages of the operation that this library would be a small map and chart reference library. The needs of the HTA operation necessitated enlarging this library function. At present, two reference libraries are being operated and maintained by Information Section personnel.

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The Map and Chart Library consists of approximately 32,000 items (or 350,000 pieces). The original plan to have one person maintain this operation has now proved to be impractical if adequate service is to be rendered.

The Reference Library consists of approximately 2,000 items. These items have been procured on request of the various elements within RPA and consist, for the most part, of basic photo interpretation reference texts. Many of these publications require constant attention to keep them current. Supplements, revisions, et cetera are received almost daily for incorporation into these existing publications.

This second Reference Library operation which, at present, requires two people to adequately maintain and operate, was not envisaged or planned for.

C. SUPPORT TO THE PARAMOUNT COMMITTEE.

At the request of the Chief, D/CP/RP, at least one member of the Information Section was present at each of the 69 meetings held by the Paramount Committee. In addition to providing collateral and map support, considerable assistance was and is being given on target identifications, Order of Battle, procurement of Special Intelligence Reports, etc.

D. SPECIAL GRAPHICS AND BRIEFING AIDS

A requirement developed during the early stages of Project RPA for the preparation of special graphic material and briefing aids. This material was used for the briefing and indoctrination of key personnel as to the intelligence value, qualities and potentialities of TALENT materials.

The Information Section, working in conjunction with the Special Projects Branch, has prepared 96 Special Graphics and four (4) briefing books [USSR (2), Middle East, Statistics]. The Information Section is currently assisting in the completion of a book on the European Satellites.

E. EQUIPMENT (EQUIPMENT LISTING AND CHECKING).

1. Listing of new photographic equipment for project

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HTAUTOMAT within the continental limits of the United States has resulted in a requirement to the Information Section to provide all the necessary charts, maps, triangulations, station data, transit traverses, town plans, etc., on various test areas. To date, the Information Section has procured and furnished approximately 5,600 separate pieces of the above information on areas in Florida, California, Arizona, and Washington, D. C. and environs.

F. ENLARGEMENT OF THE AREA OF INTEREST.

The original concept of the HTA Center was to exploit only ~~satellite~~ photography of the Soviet Union. It soon became apparent the photography over the European Satellites was extremely valuable for military and industrial intelligence. Exploitation of TALENT photography over the Satellite countries was added to the function and mission of the HTA Center.

Development of tensions in the Middle East and the subsequent use of TALENT coverage necessitated a tremendous enlargement of research efforts and reference files, maps, charts, etc. to exploit this photography and for the rapid and accurate reporting by the Paramount Committee.

The exploitation of AFS photography commenced at the Center approximately six months ago necessitating additional research activity and the enlargement of reference files.

Recently, the first group of DD/P photography was brought into the Center for plotting and exploitation. Again, research activity in accurately locating and identifying installations increased.

It is perhaps relevant at this point to indicate that the original area of responsibility totalled 8,524,750 square miles. At present, the area of responsibility totals 17,129,150 square miles, an increase of 8,604,400 square miles. (Satellites = 486,317; China = 3,760,339; Middle East = 4,355,744).

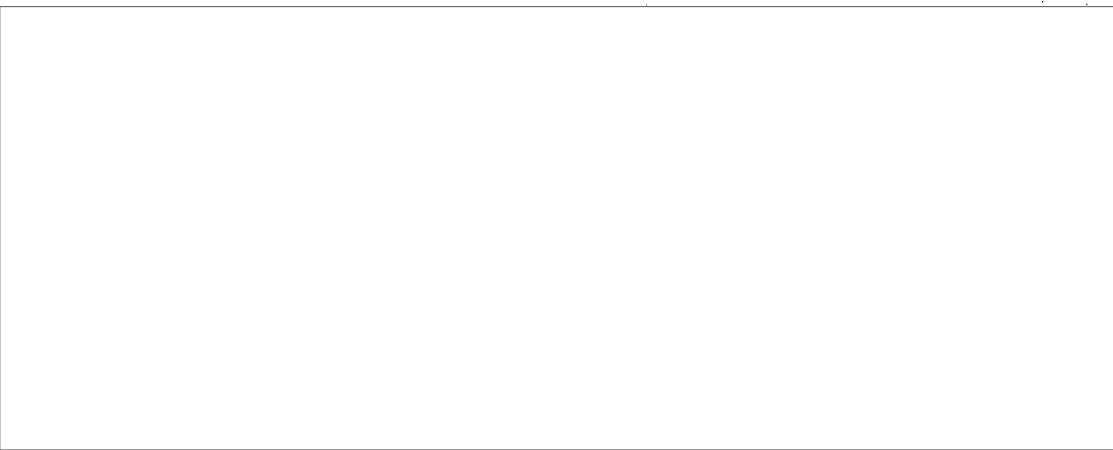
G. SUPPORT TO THE OVERSEAS TACTICAL UNITS, PROJECT HTAUTOMAT

Development of tensions in the Middle East created a requirement for rapidly obtaining information from TALENT

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material. TALENT provided properly cleared personnel for the establishment of small tactical interpretation units overseas. The Information Section was called upon to provide all the necessary maps, charts and other reference material to those units. After careful selection, four (4) crews involving 3,257 pieces of reference material were sent overseas.

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**I. SUPPORT TO D/CP/RR CENTRAL BUILDING UNIT.**

The Information Section has been called on from time to time to research projects for the D/CP/RR Central Building Unit. Though this unit does not use TALENT materials, research has been conducted on projects involving Chinese Nationalists, World War II, Jenetrix or ground photography. Most of these projects have been for the DD/P or for ORR and OSI.

The Information Section has also functioned in a procurement capacity for the Central Building Unit, D/CP/RR.

J. SUPPORT TO PROJECT HEADQUARTERS.

The Information Section has worked closely with the Chief, D/CP/RR and the Special Projects Branch in obtaining information and preparing special briefing aids on a variety of subjects. Considerable time and effort has been spent in developing textual and graphic aids on such items as "Open Lines," "Map Mills," aids for overseas briefings, and material to be submitted to the Utilization Advisory Board.

K. SUPPORT TO THE STATISTICAL BRANCH.

Under the direction of the Chief, Statistical Branch,

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the Information Section is preparing a duplicate set of all maps and charts on file in the HIA Center for shipment to Vital Records. The project, about 35 percent complete consists of approximately 130 archive-type boxes.

L. ENLARGEMENT OF THE SCOPE OF RESEARCH ACTIVITY.

The original HIA paper regarding the missions and functions indicated that the Information Section (See item #4, Reference Service Section, last page (14)) was to arrange for the procurement of supporting reference documents. Because of the tremendous amount of collateral information available and necessary to the study of TALENT photography, it became apparent that the various elements conducting the photo interpretation work could not also accomplish the collateral research necessary to their studies. This task then was gradually absorbed by the members of the Information Section who, at present, are attempting to do the majority of collateral research. Further, it has been requested that this research activity be enlarged to include the preparation of overlays to existing mosaics, to pinpoint specific targets, and to do basic photo-interpreting studies with Stereo-pairs.

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